

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Involvement of officers of MMTC in fraudulent rice deal

17. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the senior officers of MMTC have been promoted inspite of their clear involvement in the M/S K.J. International's fraudulent rice deal with MMTC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) and (b) No, Sir. Two senior officers of MMTC were selected for promotion by the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) long before the charge-sheets were served on them, and promoted which is as per the extant instructions. The disciplinary authority awarded appropriate penalty to these officers subsequently.

National Renewal Fund

18. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by National Renewal Fund;

(b) the budget allocation for 1999-2000 and current financial year; and

(c) whether Government propose to abolish this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF) had been provided for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and the scheme of counselling, retraining etc. of workers rationalised from the organised sector. VRS assistance has been made available to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). According to information available, 1,37,366 employees have availed of VRS as on 30.6.2000. Under NRF, Employees Assistance Centres (EACs) have been set up to provide counselling, retraining of workers to facilitate their redeployment. 66 EACs set up under NRF are managed by 12 nodal agencies spread all over India and have retrained 48,781 employees rationalised from organised sector as on 30.6.2000.

(b) NRF had been maintained in Public Account till 1998-99. In RE: 1999-2000, there was a provision of Rs. 174.05 crores for Grant-in-aid to

PSUs for implementation of VRS and Rs. 5.50 crores for counselling, retraining etc. In BE: 2000-01, there is a provision of Rs. 270.00 crores for Grant-in-aid to PSUs for implementation of VRS and Rs. 6.00 crores for counselling, retraining etc.

(c) The NRF has been abolished *vide* a gazette notification on 12.7.2000. However, financial assistance for VRS in Central PSUs will be made available to administrative Ministries/Department directly at the beginning of the year and the scheme of retraining/rehabilitation of workers will be administered by the Department of Public Enterprises.

Investment made by Japan

19. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the investment made by Japan during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;
- (b) the projects on which they invested;
- (c) the details of work done by Japan India Business Committee; and
- (d) the benefits arrived at by setting up the above Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Sir, Japan has made investments as under:—

(i) 1998-99:	Rs.917.20 crore
(ii) 1999-2000:	Rs. 613.53 crore

(b) A list showing sector wise investments made by Japan during the period 1998-2000 is enclosed as statement (see below).

(c) and (d) Under the India Japan Business Cooperation Committee for promoting Japanese investment in India, three working groups have so far been set up in cooperation with the representatives of Indian Industry and their Japanese counterparts, having common interests in trade and business, for Food Processing Industries, Information Technology and Infrastructure. The Government's role is that of a facilitator. The working groups are to identify the problem areas and work to resolve these with the help of the Governments of India and Japan, wherever required.